



United States  
Environmental Protection Agency

# New Building Design Guidance and Target Finder

*“Today’s smart designers make decisions that are good for the environment and their bottom line. With ENERGY STAR®, you can uncover this link between energy, environmental, and financial performance for your new building designs.”*

## **New Building Design: A Strategy for Success**

Exemplary energy performance strategies can be achieved and measured during design development on new construction projects by using ENERGY STAR tools and resources. ENERGY STAR is a recognized symbol for exemplary energy performance in buildings, homes, products, and appliances. ENERGY STAR tools and resources Target Finder and New Building Design Guidance will assist you with setting a target, enhancing the conventional design process, and moving toward your performance goals.

Most ENERGY STAR labeled buildings score 85 or better on EPA’s benchmark rating scale, although 75 is the minimum requirement to qualify for a label. ESource research also shows that commercial new construction can achieve 50% energy savings if an integrated design approach and energy performance strategies are carefully implemented. Therefore, energy performance that exceeds typical building design is achievable in new building design and construction.

## **Target Finder: An Energy Performance Calculator**

Target Finder is an analytical tool that enables you to:

- establish a design target,
- compare your estimated energy consumption to the established target.

By establishing a target early in the design process, it provides focus and direction to your energy performance strategies. You can also measure your progress during design development by comparing your energy consumption estimates to your target. The benefit is that energy strategies are incorporated as an integral part of the design and your success can be measured against a specific goal.

## **New Building Design Guidance: Strategic Checklists and Resources**

The New Building Design Guidance is a series of strategic checklists with related resources for each step in the design process. The strategic checklist is a management tool that outlines the necessary steps for your team to achieve its goals. It will help you understand what and why certain actions should occur in order to reach desired outcome. For example, “Set Goals”, tells you how to find a target, research similar projects, and seek necessary funding to achieve your goals. It’s not enough to set goals for energy performance without securing financial and management support to implement your plan.

## **Strategic Checklists**

The Checklist does not provide specific guidance on building characteristics and components, such as materials, HVAC, lighting, etc. Instead, it



strongly encourages building owners and designers to use energy performance as a driver in making critical design decisions regarding building systems and design.

### **Resources**

The Resource section complements the checklist by providing a list of documents and web site links regarding a wide range of topics, from building systems to energy simulation tools to other guidance documents.

### **Reaping the Benefits**

The strategies outlined in New Building Design Guidance will enhance your ability to:

- Save time and money by comparing outputs from energy simulation software to industry benchmarks during key phases of the design process. Design decisions can be made based on energy performance rather than arbitrary concepts that can not be measured

- Increase your property asset value through enhanced energy performance
- Provide a specific energy performance target and approach to include in RFP's

For a new building design to achieve the ENERGY STAR label (once built and operating) use Target Finder, Strategic Checklists, and Resources to incorporate energy performance strategies and goals during new building design.

Visit our Web site at **[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)** and use **Search: New Building Design**.